

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A seatback recliner mechanism, comprising:

a frame incorporated into a seat bottom and a seatback arm pivotally secured to said frame;

said seatback arm including a lower arcuate surface upon which are defined a first plurality of serrations;

a pawl comprising a generally elongated body including a first end hingedly secured to said frame and incorporating a second plurality of serrations, said pawl further includes an interior aperture defined by an enclosed inner wall configuration;

a cam rotatably secured to said frame in seating fashion within said inner wall configuration and so as to be completely contained within said interior aperture associated with said pawl, said cam exhibiting a specified exterior configuration;

a lever pivotally secured to said cam and extending from said frame; and

said cam being rotated in a first direction, such that ~~its~~ an exterior configuration of the cam engages at least one location along said inner wall configuration of said pawl and to bias said second plurality of serrations in abutting contact against said first plurality of serrations, said cam being rotated in a second direction to cause said pawl to hingedly disengage from abutting contact with said seatback arm.

2. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 1, said second plurality of serrations extending along an upper arcuate surface of said pawl extending in substantially opposing fashion relative to said lower arcuate surface of said seatback arm.

3. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 1, said inner wall configuration of said pawl comprising a first plurality of projections, said exterior configuration of said cam comprising a second plurality of projections which co-act with said first plurality of projections between said first and second rotated directions.

4. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 3, each of said pawl and cam further comprising first, second and third co-acting projections.

5. (Currently Amended) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 1, said frame further comprising an inner plate and a spaced apart outer plate sandwiching therebetween said pawl, cam and a pivotally secured seatback.

6. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 5, further comprising a main pivot pin extending through aligning apertures in said spaced-apart inner and outer plates, a main coil spring securing to an exterior face of said outer plate and biasing said seatback arm in a forwardly pivoting direction.

7. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 5, further comprising a cam pivot pin extending through a central aperture defined in said cam and additional aligning apertures in said inner and outer plates, an extending end of said cam pivot pin engaging said lever.

8. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 7, further comprising a secondary coil spring secured to an exterior face of said outer plate and biasing said lever in a counter-clockwise direction.

9. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 5, further comprising a pawl rivet seating through an aperture in said pawl defining said hinged connection, said pawl rivet seating through additional and aligning apertures in said inner and outer plates.

10. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 5, further comprising a pair of spacer bushings engaging additional and aligning pairs of apertures in said inner and outer plates.

11. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 6, further comprising an extending end of said main coil spring engaging a projecting end of a rivet extending between top rear locations associated with said inner and outer plates.

12. (Original) The seatback recliner mechanism as described in claim 8, further comprising an extending end of said secondary coil spring engaging an angled projection associated with said outer plate.

13. (Currently Amended) A seatback recliner mechanism, comprising:

a frame incorporated into a seat bottom, said frame including an inner plate and a spaced-apart outer plate, a seatback arm sandwiched between said inner and outer plates and so as to be pivotally secured to said frame;

said seatback arm including a lower arcuate surface upon which are defined a first plurality of serrations;

a pawl comprising a generally elongated body hingedly secured to said frame and incorporating a second plurality of serrations extending along an upper arcuate surface in substantially opposing fashion relative to said first plurality of serrations, said pawl further includes an interior aperture defined by an enclosed inner wall configuration exhibiting a first plurality of projections;

a cam rotatably secured to said frame in seating fashion within said inner wall configuration and so as to be completely contained within said interior aperture associated with said pawl, said cam exhibiting a specified exterior configuration exhibiting a second plurality of projections which co-act with said first plurality of projections associated with said pawl;

a lever pivotally secured to said cam and extending from said outer plate; and

said cam being rotated in a first direction, such that ~~its~~ an exterior configuration of the cam engages said inner wall configuration of said pawl and to bias said second plurality of serrations in abutting contact against said first plurality of serrations, said cam being rotated in a second direction to cause said pawl to hingedly disengage from abutting contact with said seatback arm.